Message Text

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R 280952Z MAR 77 FM AMEMBASSY KUWAIT TO AMEMBASSY CAIRO INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7605 AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI AMEMBASSY DOHA AMEMBASSY JIDDA

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: EG EFIN EAID SUBJECT: FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL COMMENTS ON KUWAITI ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

REF: (A) KUWAIT 1381, (B) CAIRO 5105.

1. CALL MARCH 23 BY VISITING EMBASSY CAIRO ECONOMIC OFFICER MATTOX AND EMBOFF ON KUWAIT FOREIGN MINISTRY OFFICIAL RESPONSIBLE FOR ARAB ECONOMIC AFFAIRS ABDULLAH ABDULRAZZAK PROVIDED OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS KUWAIT'S ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT. ABDULRAZZAK, WHO RECENTLY ATTENDED CAIRO AFRO-ARAB SUMMIT (REF B), SAID THAT IN REVIEWING FIGURES ON KUWAITI FOREIGN ASSISTANCE PRIOR TO CONFERENCE, HE WAS TRULY SURPRISED AT AMOUNT OF ASSISTANCE GIVEN TO EGYPT. WHILE VAGUE ON FIGURES, ABDULRAZZAK SAID KUWAITI AID TO EGYPT WAS GREATER THAN TOTAL AID TO ALL OTHER COUNTRIES COMBINED. "I BELIEVE I SPEAK FOR MY COLLEAGUES AT THE MINISTRY," ABDULRAZZAK SAID, "IN SAYING THAT CONTINUED GENEROUS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT IS JUSTIFIED GIVEN EGYPT'S PRESSING PROBLEMS AND POSITION AS A CONFRONTATION STATE."

2. COMMENT: TONE OF ABDULRAZZAK'S COMMENTS WAS IN MARKED CONTRAST TO THE PAST KUWAITI LITANY ABOUT EGYPT BEING A "BOTTOMLESS PIT". THEY REFLECT WHAT APPEARS TO BE A MORE FORTHCOMING KUWAITI ATTITUDE (AT LEAST AT THE FOREIGN

MINISTRY) TOWARDS EGYPT SINCE THE JANUARY DISTURBANCES IN CAIRO, ALTHOUGH THE GOK IS STILL LOOKING FOR AN APPROPRIATE MULTILATERAL VEHICLE THROUGH WHICH TO CHANNEL ITS AID AND MONITOR ITS USE BY THE GOE.

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Message Attributes

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